

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 L-03

AID-20 IGA-02 MC-02 EB-11 TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 COME-00

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DRAFTED BY AF/C:JHDIGGS:CRJ

APPROVED BY AF:AMB. MULCAHY

AF/C:MR. CUTLER

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P 031415Z AUG 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 169622

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN, GB

SUBJECT: DC-8 FOR GABON

REF: LIBREVILLE 964

1. ACTING UPON INSTRUCTIONS, AMB. MAVOUNGOU, ACCOMPANIED BY COMMERCIAL ATTACHE AKANDA, CALLED ON ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY MULCAHY AUG. 1 TO INQUIRE ABOUT STATUS OF DC-8 SALE. (NO REFERENCE WAS MADE DURING THE CONVERSATION TO POSSIBLE ARRIVAL OF ANOTHER PRESIDENTIAL MISSION TO LOBBY FOR THE SALE.)

2. MAVOUNGOU SAID PRESIDENT BONGO WAS BECOMING INCREASINGLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE LONG DELAY IN REPLYING TO HIS REQUEST TO PURCHASE A DC-8 63F, AND NOTED THE LARGE AMOUNT OF PUBLIC FUNDS ALREADY SPENT BY THE GOG TO OBTAIN THE PLANE. (FYI: GOG PAID DOLS 400,000 DEPOSIT AS PER CONTRACT WITH SEABOARD WORLD AIRLINES ON MARCH 20, 1974. SUBSEQUENTLY, ON MAY 15, GOG FORFEITED DOLS 200,000 BECAUSE EXIM
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FINANCING HAD NOT YET BEEN SECURED. END FYI)

3. MAVOUNGOU WENT OVER THE REASONS BONGO WANTED TO BUY THE DC-8, EMPHASIZING THE PRESIDENT'S DESIRE TO USE THE AIRCRAFT FOR OFFICIAL PURPOSES. BONGO HAS ASKED THAT IF AN ANSWER CANNOT BE PROVIDED NOW THAT HE BE GIVEN A DATE WHEN TO EXPECT IT. MAVOUNGOU CONJECTURED ABOUT THE LIKELIHOOD THAT IF THE DECISION WERE UNFAVORABLE BONGO WOULD HAVE TO

MAKE OTHER ARRANGEMENTS.

4. RESPONDING, MULCAHY EXPRESSED REGRET THAT NO DECISION HAD YET BEEN MADE, BUT ASSURED THE AMB. THAT, WHILE THE MATTER IS STILL UNDER REVIEW BY VARIOUS GOVT AGENCIES, IT IS BEING GIVEN VERY CAREFUL ATTENTION. THE ACTING ASST. SECRETARY OFFERED THE HOPE THAT A DECISION WOULD BE FORTHCOMING SOON.

5. IN DEPARTING MAVOUNGOU LEFT A DIPLOMATIC NOTE SUMMARIZING HIS REMARKS AND COMMENTED AMIABLY THAT THERE ARE NO OTHER CURRENT PROBLEMS IN THE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. COPY OF NOTE WILL BE POUCHED. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE169622
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JHDIGGS:CRJ
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740212-0624
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740876/aaaacnaq.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: LIBREVILLE 964
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 AUG 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <24 FEB 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DC-8 FOR GABON
TAGS: OGEN, GB
To: LIBREVILLE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005